

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hill P. Wilson Store

AND/OR COMMON

Philip Hardware Store (preferred name)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

719 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Hays

N/A -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 1 Pat Roberts

STATE

Kansas

N/A -- VICINITY OF

CODE

20

COUNTY

Ellis

CODE

051

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

N/A

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

☒ COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__MILITARY

__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. George Philip

STREET & NUMBER

204 West Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN

Hays

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 67601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Ellis County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Hays

STATE

Kansas 67601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Kansas Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1970

__FEDERAL ☒ STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Philip Hardware Store, located on the northwest corner of 8th and Main Streets in Hays, Kansas, is a two-story rectangular block with a three-bay front.

The building is constructed of coursed, rock-faced native limestone. There are stone lintels and smooth-cut sills. A front entrance and flanking display windows are framed in wood. The front eave cornice is wood; it is ornamented with brackets and a dentil molding.

There are no windows in the first story on the north side, only a rear door. In the second story wooden, double-hung windows are arranged regularly on the east and north sides. There are three chimneys in the north wall.

ALTERATIONS

The Philip Hardware Store is remarkably unchanged. On the Eighth Street side the eave cornice has been removed. All three chimney tops have been rebuilt. In front a wooden awning over the first story has been replaced by corrugated metal roofing on a metal frame. A frame addition has been built to the rear of the building and is not a part of the nomination.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE-- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES: 1874 BUILDER/ARCHITECT "unknown"

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Philip Hardware Store in Hays, Kansas, housed various activities important to the town of Hays as it developed, and today it remains essentially unchanged in use or form from the day that it was built.

In March, 1874, Hill P. Wilson let the contract for construction of a two-story stone building in Hays. At the same time, Wilson, who was the first post trader at Fort Hays, closed his store at Buffalo Park. Later, the Junction City Union of May 16, 1874, reported, "Mr. Hill P. Wilson's new stone building is rapidly approaching completion. It is a structure well worthy of the enterprising spirit of Mr. Wilson, large and commodious, and quite a conspicuous feature of Hays." By August Wilson and his partners William Patterson and J. C. Connor had opened a store for the sale of general merchandise in the new building.

About a year later, in September, 1875, W. H. Courtney took over as manager. In October the United States public land office moved into the building, probably on the second floor. Hill Wilson built another building and moved his stock of goods into the new location during January, 1876. The Hays City Sentinel reported on February 2, 1876, that the first floor of Wilson's former store room was being fitted and partitioned for the use of the land office.

Before the land office was moved west to Wakeeney in 1879, thousands of homestead and timber claims were filed at the Hays office. L. F. Eggers and A. J. Vickers, register and cashier, managed the office from December, 1874 until fall, 1877.

Vickers and his wife lived above the land office after it was moved to the ground floor. They were popular hosts during their residence in the frontier community of Hays. The local newspaper reported several social occasions with dining and dancing in the second story of the Wilson building.

Colonel William Hunter succeeded Vickers as cashier on November 26, 1877. The Hayes administration later moved the land office to another location before transferring it from Hays in 1879.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Wilson building then housed the offices of the Hays Free Press, edited by Harry Freese. George Philip, who had acquired a hardware business in Hays in 1894, moved his store into the Wilson building in 1896. The Philip family had emigrated to the Kansas plains from Scotland in the 1870's as part of George Grant's Victoria colony. The Philip Hardware Store is one of the oldest businesses in Hays.

In form and in ornament the Philip Hardware Store is a typical frontier retail establishment. Built in a style which can only be termed commercial vernacular, it stands as a reminder of the earliest days of Main Street.

Characteristic of this building type are the narrow frontage, extreme depth, two-story height and large plate-glass display windows on the front facade. Originally this building was free-standing. From historic photographs it is apparent that the broad eaves decorated with dentils and supported by scrolled brackets ran at least the length of the east and north facades, and presumably the south as well. This vaguely Italianate treatment was common in buildings of this type.

Today a building abuts the hardware store on the south side and the decorative cornice remains only on the front facade, but the building still retains the character of a frontier commercial establishment. The most important facades--those fronting on Main and Eight Streets--are unaltered except in decorative detail. Their massing and material remain the same as the day they were constructed.

Throughout its long history the building has fulfilled a vital need in the growing community of Hays. When it was first constructed it made an imposing contribution to the streetscape. It housed one of the earliest general stores, the land office, the offices of a local newspaper, and finally returned to its original function as a commercial establishment. At all times it housed services important to the community, and it continues to function today as a vital commercial establishment.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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"Fort Vickers," Hays Daily News, June 18, 1972.

"From Hays City," Junction City Daily Union, December 27, 1873.

"From Hays City," Junction City Daily Union, May 16, 1874.

"From Hays City, Junction City Daily Union, June 20, 1874.

"From Hays City," Junction City Daily Union, September 12, 1874.

"Local News," Hays City Sentinel, February 2, 1876.

Books

Burkey, Blaine. Ellis County Gold. (Hays, Kansas: Thomas More Prep, 1979).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Articles

"Chronological Record of Interesting Events During the Past Three Years,"
Hays City Sentinel, January 5, 1877.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .25 acres

USGS Quadrangle: Hays South

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 471121810 4310231210
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lots 16 & 18, Block 7, Subdivision 1 & 2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE N/A CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE N/A CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Julie Wortman, Architectural Historian

Dale Nimz, Program Assistant; Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society DATE

STREET & NUMBER 120 West 10th Street TELEPHONE

913 296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka STATE

Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Executive Director, Ks. State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

6161 N NW
DOCUMENT 101

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

99°22'30"
38°52'30"

4680000

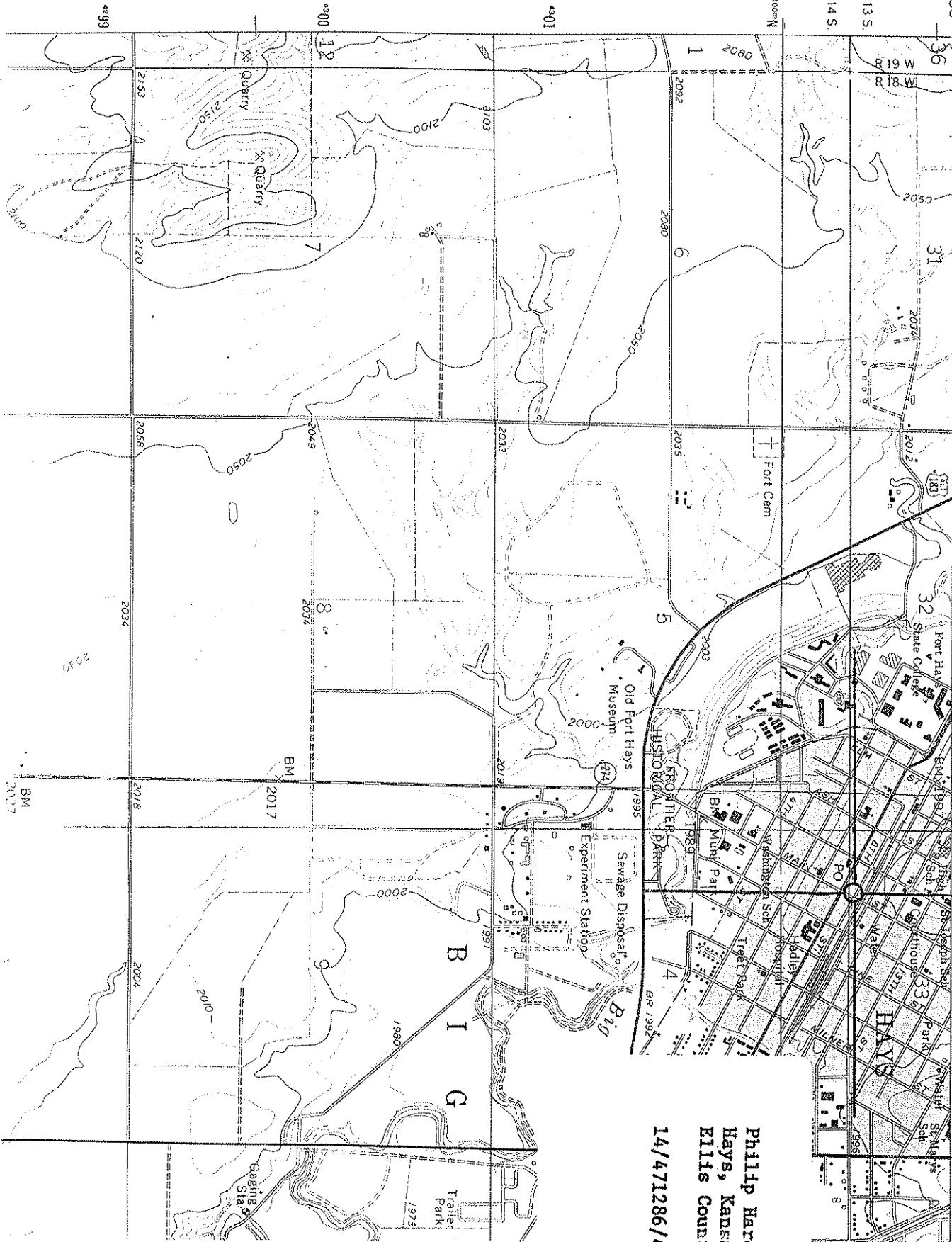
469

ELLIS 13 MI.
VOCEMENTO 5.5 MI.

STOCKTON 40 MI.
PLAINVILLE 25 MI.
HAYS 18 MI.

T. 13 S.
T. 14 S.

43020000N



Philip Hays,
Hays, Kansas
Ellis County

14/471286/1

4299

4300

4301

BM
2027

BM
2027